

Downy Mildews effect on Pickling Cucumber Growers in Michigan

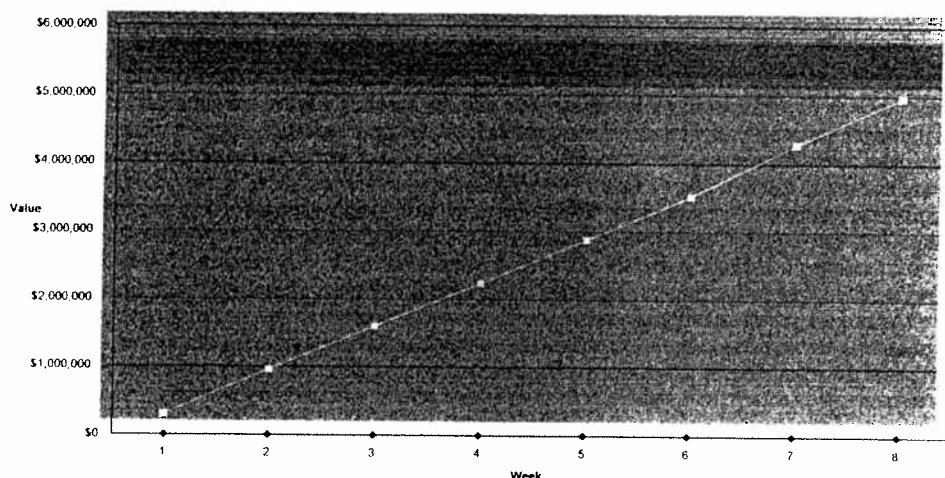
Michigan leads the nation in pickling cucumber production and is considered a low cost producer. In 2006 there were 38,500 acres of pickling cucumber acres planted in Michigan with a farm value of \$30,643,000 according to the USDA NASS.

Downy Mildew blew into the state in 2005 in the month of August with about a third of the crop remaining to be harvested. At that time downy was earlier confirmed all along the east coast of the country. In 2006 the disease was confirmed around June 9th in Michigan with no other confirmations of the disease north of Georgia at time, which leads us to believe the cause of the outbreak at such an early stage in Michigan was caused from early transplants that were infected in a green house environment.

During the beginning of June the pickling cucumber acreage is just starting to be planted with little or no emergence. Since the downy mildew was present in Michigan so early this year the growers had to spray on a 5 to 7 day schedule on 100% of the pickling acreage.

The cost of downy mildew control in 2006 was approximately \$5 million dollars for the pickle growers in Michigan. This amounts to over 16% of their gross revenue and this cost is taken directly from their net income. The graph below shows the cost escalates rapidly for each week the crop is sprayed. The emergence of the disease on transplants cost Michigan growers an estimated \$3 million dollars in 2006 when compared to only having to spray starting mid August, as in 2005. Put another way, if we can delay the onset of the disease for 1 month we can eliminate half the chemical cost to our industry.

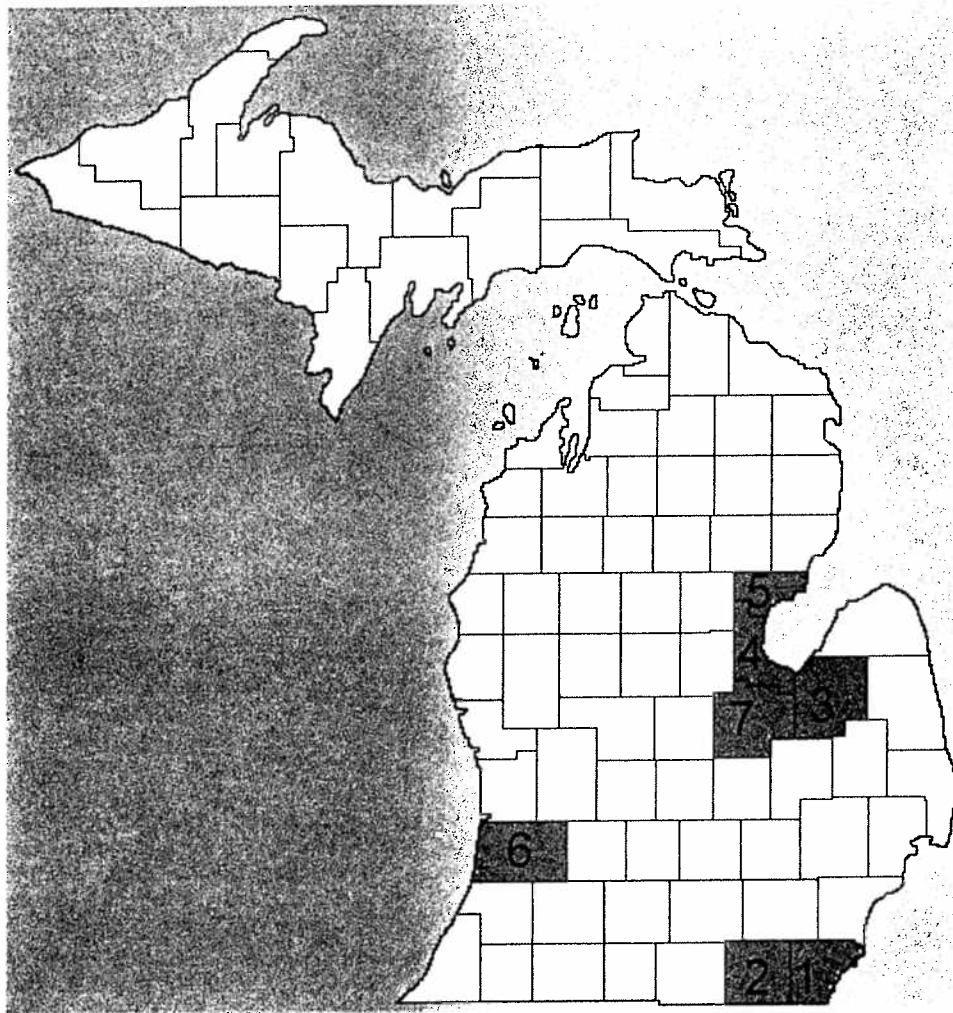
Downy Mildew Accumulative Spray Cost by Week in Michigan



Chemical costs are only one part of the equation. Growers experienced significant yield loss on acreage that was not sprayed in a timely manner. Some growers lost one third of their crop while still having the extra chemical costs.

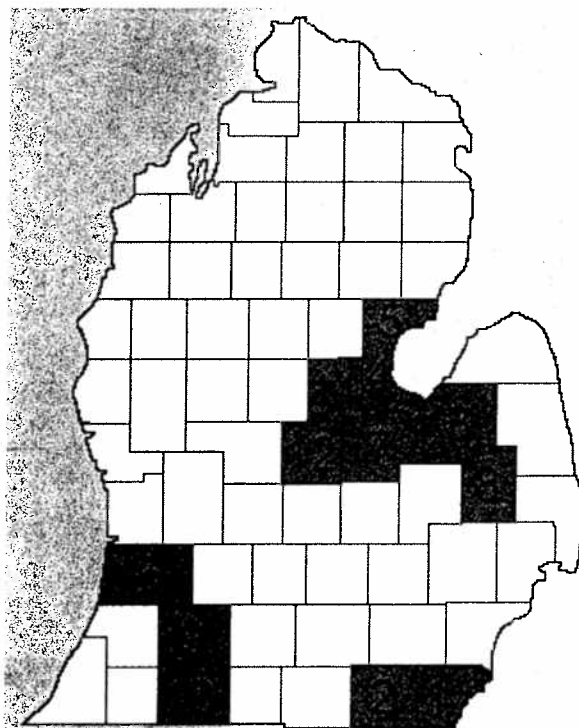
2007 is shaping up to be a tough year for pickling cucumber industry in Michigan with the extra costs of downy mildew control, potential yield loss and the increased risk of producing the crop is pushing growers to switch to grain where the markets are more favorable and less risky.

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan
as of July 25, 2006



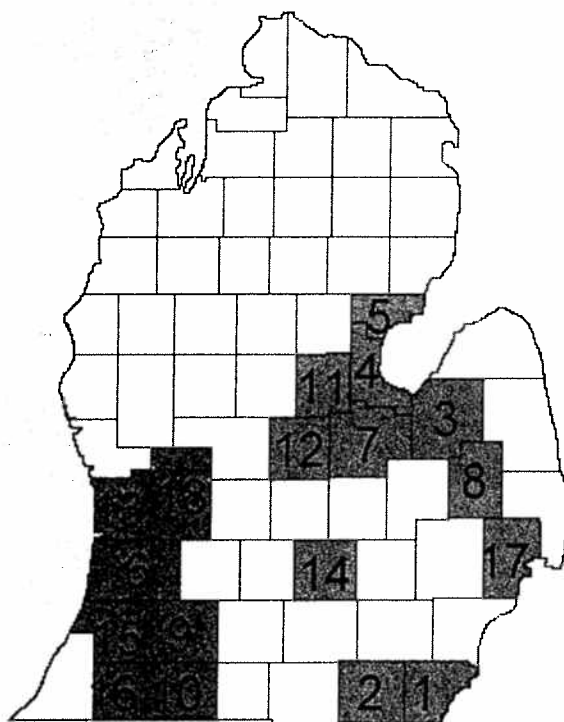
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Monroe County | June 9, 2006 |
| 2. Lenawee County | July 19, 2006 |
| 3. Tuscola County | July 24, 2006 |
| 4. Bay County | July 24, 2006 |
| 5. Arenac County | July 24, 2006 |
| 6. Allegan County | July 25, 2006 |
| 7. Saginaw County | July 25, 2006 |

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan as of August 1, 2006



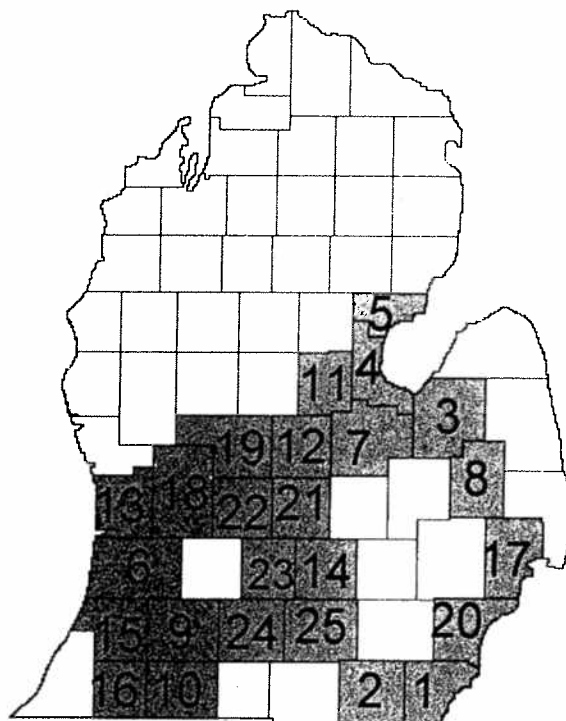
1	Monroe Co.	6/9 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe
2	Lenawee Co.	7/19 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe
3	Tuscola Co.	7/24 cucumber	7/27 winter squash
4	Bay Co.	7/24 cucumber	
5	Arenac Co.	7/24 cucumber	
6	Allegan Co.	7/25 cucumber	
7	Saginaw Co.	7/25 cucumber	
8	Lapeer Co.	7/27 cucumber	
9	Kalamazoo Co.	7/28 cucumber	
10	St. Joseph Co.	7/28 cucumber	
11	Midland Co.	8/1 cucumber	
12	Gratiot Co.	8/1 cucumber	

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan as of August 10, 2006



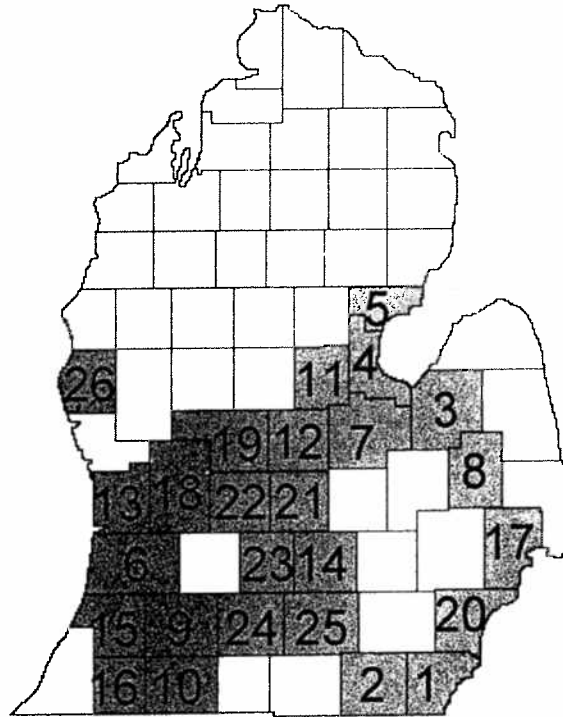
1	Monroe Co.	6/9 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	18	Kent Co.	8/10 cucumber
2	Lenawee Co.	7/19 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe			
3	Tuscola Co.	7/24 cucumber	7/27 winter squash			
4	Bay Co.	7/24 cucumber				
5	Arenac Co.	7/24 cucumber				
6	Allegan Co.	7/25 cucumber				
7	Saginaw Co.	7/25 cucumber				
8	Lapeer Co.	7/27 cucumber				
9	Kalamazoo Co.	7/28 cucumber				
10	St. Joseph Co.	7/28 cucumber				
11	Midland Co.	8/1 cucumber				
12	Gratiot Co.	8/1 cucumber				
13	Ottawa Co.	8/4 cucumber				
14	Ingham Co.	8/4 cucumber				
15	Van Buren Co.	8/4 cucumber				
16	Cass Co.	8/8 cucumber				
17	Macomb Co.	8/9 cucumber	8/9 cantaloupe			

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan as of August 17, 2006



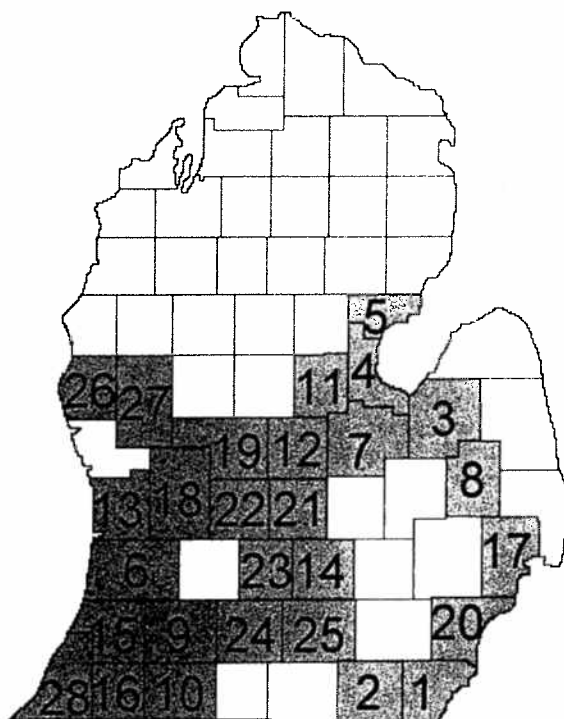
1	Monroe Co.	6/9 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	18	Kent Co.	8/10 cucumber
2	Lenawee Co.	7/19 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	19	Montcalm Co.	8/11 cucumber
3	Tuscola Co.	7/24 cucumber	7/27 winter squash 8/11 cantaloupe	20	Wayne Co.	8/14 cucumber
4	Bay Co.	7/24 cucumber		21	Clinton Co.	8/16 cucumber
5	Arenac Co.	7/24 cucumber		22	Ionia Co.	8/17 cucumber
6	Allegan Co.	7/25 cucumber		23	Eaton Co.	8/17 cucumber
7	Saginaw Co.	7/25 cucumber		24	Calhoun Co.	8/17 cucumber
8	Lapeer Co.	7/27 cucumber		25	Jackson Co.	8/17 cucumber
9	Kalamazoo Co.	7/28 cucumber				
10	St. Joseph Co.	7/28 cucumber				
11	Midland Co.	8/1 cucumber				
12	Gratiot Co.	8/1 cucumber				
13	Ottawa Co.	8/4 cucumber				
14	Ingham Co.	8/4 cucumber				
15	Van Buren Co.	8/4 cucumber				
16	Cass Co.	8/8 cucumber				
17	Macomb Co.	8/9 cucumber	8/9 cantaloupe			

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan as of August 30, 2006



1	Monroe Co.	6/9 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	18	Kent Co.	8/10 cucumber
2	Lenawee Co.	7/19 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	19	Montcalm Co.	8/11 cucumber
3	Tuscola Co.	7/24 cucumber	7/27 winter squash 8/11 cantaloupe	20	Wayne Co.	8/14 cucumber
4	Bay Co.	7/24 cucumber		21	Clinton Co.	8/16 cucumber
5	Arenac Co.	7/24 cucumber		22	Ionia Co.	8/17 cucumber
6	Allegan Co.	7/25 cucumber		23	Eaton Co.	8/17 cucumber
7	Saginaw Co.	7/25 cucumber		24	Calhoun Co.	8/17 cucumber
8	Lapeer Co.	7/27 cucumber		25	Jackson Co.	8/17 cucumber
9	Kalamazoo Co.	7/28 cucumber		26	Oceana Co.	8/28 cucumber
10	St. Joseph Co.	7/28 cucumber				
11	Midland Co.	8/1 cucumber				
12	Gratiot Co.	8/1 cucumber				
13	Ottawa Co.	8/4 cucumber				
14	Ingham Co.	8/4 cucumber				
15	Van Buren Co.	8/4 cucumber				
16	Cass Co.	8/8 cucumber				
17	Macomb Co.	8/9 cucumber	8/9 cantaloupe			

Confirmed downy mildew reports in Michigan as of September 6, 2006



1	Monroe Co.	6/9 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	18	Kent Co.	8/10 cucumber
2	Lenawee Co.	7/19 cucumber	7/27 cantaloupe	19	Montcalm Co.	8/11 cucumber
3	Tuscola Co.	7/24 cucumber	7/27 winter squash 8/11 cantaloupe	20	Wayne Co.	8/14 cucumber
4	Bay Co.	7/24 cucumber		21	Clinton Co.	8/16 cucumber
5	Arenac Co.	7/24 cucumber		22	Ionia Co.	8/17 cucumber
6	Allegan Co.	7/25 cucumber		23	Eaton Co.	8/17 cucumber
7	Saginaw Co.	7/25 cucumber		24	Calhoun Co.	8/17 cucumber
8	Lapeer Co.	7/27 cucumber		25	Jackson Co.	8/17 cucumber
9	Kalamazoo Co.	7/28 cucumber		26	Oceana Co.	8/28 cucumber
10	St. Joseph Co.	7/28 cucumber		27	Newago Co.	8/31 cucumber
11	Midland Co.	8/1 cucumber		28	Berrien Co.	9/5 cucumber
12	Gratiot Co.	8/1 cucumber				
13	Ottawa Co.	8/4 cucumber				
14	Ingham Co.	8/4 cucumber				
15	Van Buren Co.	8/4 cucumber				
16	Cass Co.	8/8 cucumber				
17	Macomb Co.	8/9 cucumber	8/9 cantaloupe			